

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
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AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5591

E.O.11652:: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, CGE, GE, BE  
SUBJECT: BELGIAN-GDR POLITICAL CONSULTATION JUST COMPLETED IN BERLIN

REF: (A) 76 BERLIN 5599

1. ON MARCH 22, EMBOFF GOT RUNDOWN ON JUST-COMPLETED ANNUAL POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN GDR AND BELGUIM FROM BELGIAN DCM CRIEL AND BELGIAN MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR FOR EASTERN EUROPE PAUL REUSENS, WHO WAS MEMBER OF DELEGATION HEADED BY VAN DEN BROECK(DAVIGNON'S SUCCESSOR).

2. THE CONSULTATIONS, WHICH OCCUR ANNUALLY, COVERED BILATERAL MATTERS, CSCE, AND BELGRADE,AND DISARMAMENT. ( THE GDR HAD ALSO WANTED TO DISCUSS CYPRUS AND THE MIDDLE EAST. HOWEVER, THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH NOT ENOUGHT TIME AND CRIEL SAID THAT HE THOUGH THAT WAS JUST AS WELL. " NEITHER WE NOR THE EAST GERMANS TAKE DECIONS ON  
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THESE MATTERS".)

3. WITH REGARD TO DSARMAMENT, NEITHER OF THE TWO BELGIAN OFFICIALS SANYTHING ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE DISCUSSIONS.

4. ON CSCE, CRIEL SAID THAT EACH SIDE EXPOSED ITS VIEWS  
" FULLY AND FRANKLY" AND ADDED THAT THE GDR AND BELGUIM, OF

COURSE, HAD GREATLY DIFFERING VIEWS ON BASKET III. REUSENS  
LATER VOLUNTEERED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS WAS BOUND TO BE AN IMPORT-  
ANT TOPIC " FOR NOW AT LEAST"; HOWEVER, THE IMPORTANT THING WAS  
TO RECOGNIZE HOW FAR ONE COULD " ESCALATE" BEFORE ONE REACHED  
" A TACTICAL POINT OF DIMINISHING RETURNS."

5. ON BILATERAL AFFAIRS, THE CONVERSATIONS CONCENTRATED ON  
FOUR AGREEMENTS CURRENTLY UNDER NEGOTIATION; A CONSULAR CON-  
VENTION AND AGREEMENTS ON MARINE TRANSPORT, PUBLIC HEALTH,  
AND CULTURE.

A. A. IN THE LATTER THREE AGREEMENTS, THE GDR STEPPED BACK  
FROM ITS PREVIOUS INSISTENCE ON PREAMBULAR LANGUAGE, " WITH  
REFERENCE TO INTERNATIONAL LAW AS LAID DOWN IN THE PRINCIPLES  
OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT", WHICH THE BELGIANS COULD NOT  
ACCEPT. THEY PROPOSED A SIMPLE REFERENCE, " ON THE BASIS OF  
THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT" WHICH IS A FORMULATION THE BELGIANS  
CAN ACCEPT.

B. THE GDR ALSO GAVE UP ITS INSISTENCE THAT A NATIONALITY  
REFERENCE BE INCLUDED IN THESE THREE AGREEMENTS - A DEMAND THAT  
THE BELGIANS HAD ADAMANTLY REFUSED.

C. THE GDR REITERATED ITS INSISTENCE TO HAVE A NATIONALITY  
DEFINITION IN THE CONSULAR CONVENTION. REUSENS SAID THAT THE  
BELGIANS COULD NEVER ACCEPT SUCH A " WRITTEN" CLAUSE IN THE  
CONVENTION. IN ADDITION TO THE " WELL-KNOWN REASONS", ITS INCLUS-  
ION WOULD LEAD TO A " BIG DEBATE" IN THE BELGIAN PARLIAMENT.  
WHEN REUSENS THEN ADDED THAT " WE WILL ALL ULTIMATELY COME TO  
A PRACTICAL DEFINITION SOMEHOW," EMBOFF ASKED FOR  
ELUCIDATION. REUSENS SAID THAT " PRACTICE" WOULD GIVE THE  
GDR THE " RECOGNITION" IT WANTED WITH ITS CONSULAR OFFICIALS  
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HAVING ACCESS TO CITIZENS WHO ACCEPTED SUCH ACCESS. WHEN  
EMBOFF PRESSED FOR MORE DETAILS ON HIS THINKING, AND  
REITERATED THE US POSITION ON A NATIONALITY CLAUSE, REUSENS  
MERELY REPEATED THAT BELGIUM ALSO COULD NEVER ACCEPT SUCH A CLAUSE  
IN THE CONVENTION. IF THERE IS A WEAK LINK IN THE CHAIN OF  
ALLIED FIRMNESS, IT WAS ITALY WITH THE HEAVY COMMUNIST INFLUENCE  
ON ITS GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE GDR " HAD TO" INSIST TO  
BELGIUM; OTHERWISE, " IT CANNOT INSIST WITH YOU, THE FRENCH AND  
ITALY." ( NOTE: THIS REFERENCE TO A " PRACTICAL DEFINITION"  
AS DISTINCT FROM A CLAUSE COULD HAVE BEEN A  
PROBE TO SEE IF THE US WAS HOLDING FIRM ON ITS POSITION TO  
REFUSE A NATIONALITY CLAUSE).

6. CRIEL TOLD EMBOFF LATER IN THE EVENING THAT HE WOULD  
REMAIN " SLIGHTLY CYNICAL" ON THE GDR " RELAXATIONS" CONCERNING  
CSCE REFERENCE IN THE THREE AGREEMENTS AND HE NON-INSISTENCE  
ON NATIONALITY LANGUAGE ( SEE PARAS. 55. A. AND B.) UNTIL HE HAD  
CONFIRMATION IN WRITING FROM THE EAST GERMANS IF THIS OCCURS,  
SYAS CRIEL, IT WILL BE THE FIRST TIME HE HAS EVER HEARD OF THE

GDR " STEPPING BACK" FROM AN IMPORTANT POLITICAL POSITION  
PREVIOUSLY EXPOSED IN NEGOTIATIONS. HE BELIEVES THAT ON  
REASONS FOR THIS COULD BE THAT THE GDR WANTS TO GET AGREEMENTS"  
TO ENFORCE THEIR INTERNATIONAL STATUS.

7. COMMENT: AS HAS OCCURRED PREVIOUSLY, ( SEE REFETEL). THE  
BELGIANS MAY BE LOOKING FOR A LITTLE REASSURANCE  
THAT THEY WILL  
NOT BE THE ONLY ONES HOLDING THE LINE ON NATIONALITY. IT MIGHT  
BE USEFUL FOR THE DEPARTMENT AND PERHAPS BRUSSELS TO USE  
SUITABLE OCCASIONS TO REITERATE THE FIRM US POSITION ON THIS  
MATTER, BUT WITHOUT REFERENCE TO REUSENS'S RATHER PUZZLING  
ALLUSION TO " PRACTICE".  
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## Message Attributes

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